

IN THE CLAIMS:

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Please amend claims 1, 10 and 11 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) An aerospace housing and shaft assembly comprising:

a housing;

a working fluid positioned within said housing;

a shaft rotatably mounted within said housing;

a seal assembly operatively positioned between said housing and said shaft, and having an inner diameter and an outer diameter, said seal assembly including:

a first seal ring mounted on said housing; and

a second seal ring mounted on said shaft in facing

relation to said first seal ring to define an interface
between said first seal ring and said second seal ring,

wherein one of said first seal ring and said second seal ring includes a surface defining a hydropad, said hydropad facing the other of said first seal ring and said second seal ring and being positioned to overlap an edge of said interface such that said hydropad [it] is exposed to

[ambientlow] ambient low pressure air having a pressure substantially less than 14 psia and such that said hydropad pumps such low pressure air into said interface between said first seal ring and said second seal ring thereby substantially preventing penetration of said working fluid into said interface.

12/10. (Once Amended) A seal assembly adapted for use in an aerospace housing and shaft assembly having a housing and a shaft rotatably mounted within said housing and a working fluid positioned within said housing, said seal assembly having an inner diameter and an outer diameter and comprising:

a first seal ring mounted on said housing; and

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cont'd*

a second seal ring mounted on said shaft in facing relation to said first seal ring to define an interface between said first seal ring and said second seal ring, wherein one of said first seal ring and said second seal ring includes a surface defining a hydropad, said hydropad facing the other of said first seal ring and said second seal ring and being positioned to overlap an edge of said interface such that said hydropad [it] is exposed to [ambientlow] ambient low pressure air having a pressure substantially less than 14 psia and such that said hydropad pumps such low pressure air into said interface between said first seal ring and said second seal ring thereby substantially preventing penetration of said working fluid into said interface.

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~~11~~. (Once Amended) A seal assembly as claimed in claim ~~10~~,¹² [wherein said] wherein said hydropad is positioned to pump said low pressure air from the inner diameter of the seal assembly toward the outer diameter of the seal assembly.

Cancel claims 18, 23, and 24.

Please add the following new claims:

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~~28~~. An aerospace housing and shaft assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hydropad includes at least one groove having a depth approximately equal to or less than .0025 inches.

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~~29~~. An aerospace housing and shaft assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hydropad includes at least one groove having a depth approximately equal to or less than .0001 inches.

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~~30~~. A seal assembly as claimed in claim ~~10~~,¹² wherein said hydropad includes at least one groove having a depth approximately equal to or less than .0025 inches.

21 31. A seal assembly as claimed in claim ¹²~~10~~, wherein said hydropad includes at least one groove having a depth approximately equal to or less than .0001 inches.

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-18 and 23-27 were pending. Claims 19-22 were previously cancelled. Claims 18, 23 and 24 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner and are subject to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-17 and 25-27 stand rejected. Claims 28-31 have been added pursuant to this amendment. Claims 1-17 and 25-31 remain pending in the subject application. Reconsideration of all rejections and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, applicants elect to prosecute the invention of an aerospace housing and shaft assembly and seal assembly, Group I, claims 1-17 and 25-27. New claims 28-33 are also directed to an aerospace housing and shaft assembly and seal assembly.

The Examiner has indicated that U.S. Patent No. 4,212,475, which was listed on form PTO-1449, was not considered because a copy of the patent was not provided. Submitted concurrently herewith is a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement properly including a copy of the noted reference. Consideration of the reference is requested.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84. The specification has been amended to correctly identify the numerals shown in the drawings. Specifically, the specification has been amended to refer to reference numeral 31, rather than 32, as such is shown in the drawings. Thus, it is now believed that the drawings comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84 and removal of the objections is requested.

The specification has been objected to for various informalities. The specification has been amended according to the Examiner's request. Thus, removal of the objection is requested.